

I support media diversity

I am writing to you today to comment on Docket No. 02-277, The Biennial Review of the FCC's broadcast media ownership rules. In its goals to promote competition, diversity and localism in today's media market, I strongly believe that the FCC should retain all of the current media ownership rules now in question. These rules serve the public interest by limiting the market power of already huge companies in the broadcast industry.

Thousands of Web sites and hundreds of television stations do not translate to media diversity. The range of ideas expressed in mainstream media has become more narrow with past ownership deregulation and will only become more so if the rules are further relaxed. I urge you not to accept the empty promises of the media moguls who say they have no plans to expand their reaches.

The right to carry on informed debate and discussion of current events is part of the founding philosophy of our nation. If the FCC allows our media outlets to merge, our ability to have open, informed discussion with a wide variety of viewpoints will be compromised.

In addition to the official hearing on this matter in Richmond, VA, I strongly urge the FCC to hold additional hearings elsewhere around the nation to solicit the widest possible participation from the public which will be the most directly affected by the outcomes of these decisions. I think it is important for the FCC to not only consider the points of view of those with a financial interest in this issue, but also those with a social or civic interest.

Thank you,

Shannon Little